

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for storing and dispensing test strips, said device comprising:
a housing comprising:
(a) a cover; and
(b) a base configured to retain a plurality of test strips, wherein the height of said base is less than the length of each of said test strips, such that a portion of each of said test strips extends beyond the distal edge of said base.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein said height of said base is at least about two thirds of the length of each of said test strips.
3. The device according to claim 1, wherein said height of said base is about 5 mm to about 700 mm and said length of each of said test strip is about 20 mm to about 60 mm.
4. The device according to claim 1, wherein said base further comprises an urging element for applying a force to said test strips stored in said housing.
5. The device according to claim 4, wherein said urging element is selected from the group consisting of sponge, foam, a spring and a plunger.
6. The device according to claim 1, wherein said base further comprises a substantially planar, rigid plate for retaining said plurality of test strips in a suitable orientation.
7. The device according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises at least one attachment means configured to engage said cover to said bottom.
8. The device according to claim 7, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a frictional engagement means.

9. The device according to claim 7, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a threading means.

10. The device according to claim 7, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises an O-ring gasket.

11. The device according to claim 7, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a lock and key mechanism.

12. The device according to claim 7, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a tensioning clamp.

13. The device according to claim 7, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a snap fit mechanism.

14. The device according to claim 1, wherein said base further comprises a test strip engagement element configured to enable removal of a single test strip from a plurality of test strips stored in said housing.

15. The device according to claim 14, wherein said test strip engagement element comprises at least one lip extension.

16. The device according to claim 14, wherein said test strip engagement element comprises at least one grasping means.

17. The device according to claim 16, wherein said at least one grasping means is selected from the group consisting of at least one ledge, magnet means, adhesive and a pattern.

18. The device according to claim 14, wherein said test strip engagement element is configured to automatically move said single test strip of said plurality of test strips in a direction away from said plurality of test strips.

19. The device according to claim 1, wherein said base further comprises a test strip movement means configured to automatically move a test strip of said plurality in a direction away from said plurality.

20. The device according to claim 1, wherein said base comprises a segregation means for segregating said plurality of test strips.

21. The device according to claim 20, wherein said segregation means is selected from the group consisting of an apex, pattern and at least one protrusion.

22. The device according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a substantially air and moisture tight seal when said cap and said base are in a closed configuration.

23. The device according to claim 1, wherein said cover and said base are two, separable pieces.

24. The device according to claim 1, wherein said device is configured to enable a threadable engagement of said cover to said base.

25. The device according to claim 1, wherein said base comprises a recess for retaining said plurality of test strips.

26. The device according to claim 1, wherein said device comprises a sealing ridge and a corresponding sealing groove, wherein said sealing ridge and said corresponding sealing groove are configured to enable a substantially air and moisture tight seal between said cover and said base.

27. A device for storing and dispensing test strips, said device comprising:
a housing comprising:
(a) a cover; and

(b) a base configured to retain a plurality of test strips, wherein said cover and said base are two, separable pieces.

28. The device according to claim 27, wherein said device is configured to enable a threadable engagement of said cover with said base.

29. The device according to claim 27, wherein said base comprises a recess for retaining said plurality of test strips.

30. The device according to claim 27, wherein said base further comprises an urging element for applying a force to said plurality of test strips stored in said housing.

31. The device according to claim 30, wherein said urging element is selected from the group consisting of sponge, foam, a spring and a plunger.

32. The device according to claim 27, wherein said base further comprises a substantially planar, rigid plate for retaining said plurality of test strips in a suitable orientation.

33. The device according to claim 27, wherein said device comprises at least one attachment means configured to engage said ^{top}cap to said ^{bottom}bottom.

34. The device according to claim 27, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a frictional engagement means.

35. The device according to claim 33, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a threading means.

36. The device according to claim 33, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises an O-ring gasket.

37. The device according to claim 33, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a lock and key mechanism.
38. The device according to claim 33, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a tensioning clamp.
39. The device according to claim 33, wherein said at least one attachment means comprises a snap fit mechanism.
40. The device according to claim 27, wherein said base further comprises a test strip engagement element configured to enable removal of a single test strip from a plurality of test strips stored in said housing.
41. The device according to claim 40, wherein said test strip engagement element comprises at least one lip extension.
42. The device according to claim 40, wherein said test strip engagement element comprises at least one grasping means.
43. The device according to claim 42, wherein said at least one grasping means is selected from the group consisting of at least one ledge, magnet means, adhesive and a pattern.
44. The device according to claim 40, wherein said test strip engagement element is configured to automatically move said single test strip of said plurality in a direction away from said plurality.
45. The device according to claim 27, further comprising a test strip movement means configured to automatically move a test strip of said plurality in a direction away from said plurality.

46. The device according to claim 27, wherein said base comprises a segregation means for segregating said plurality of test strips.

47. The device according to claim 46, wherein said segregation means is selected from the group consisting of an apex, pattern and at least one protrusion.

48. The device according to claim 27, wherein the height of said base is less than the length of each of said test strips, such that a portion of each of said test strips extends beyond the distal edge of said base.

49. The device according to claim 27, wherein said height of said base is at least about two thirds of the length of each of said test strips.

50. The device according to claim 27, wherein said height of said base is about 5 mm to about 700 mm and said length of each of said test strip is about 20 mm to about 60 mm.

51. The device according to claim 27, wherein said device comprises a sealing ridge and a corresponding sealing groove, wherein said sealing ridge and said corresponding sealing groove are configured to enable a substantially air and moisture tight seal between said cover and said base.

52. The device according to claim 27, wherein said housing comprises a substantially air and moisture tight seal when said cap and said base are in a closed configuration.

52. A method for dispensing a test strip, said method comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of test strips stored in a device, wherein said device comprises a cover and a base configured to store said plurality of test strips, wherein the height of said base is less than the length of each of said test strips, such that a portion of each of said test strips extends beyond the distal edge of said base;

(b) engaging a single test strip from said plurality of test strips stored in said device, and

(c) advancing said single test strip away from said plurality of remaining test strips, whereby said first test strip is easily segregated and removed from said remaining test strips.

53. The method according to claim 52, wherein said step of advancing comprises exerting a first force to a first end of said plurality of test strips, exerting a second force to an opposing, second end of said plurality of test strips and advancing said single test strip from said opposing, second end.

54. The method according to claim 52, wherein said step of advancing comprises advancing said single test strip adjacent a lip extension.

55. The method according to claim 54, further comprising catching at least one of said remaining test strips under said lip extension to prevent said remaining test strips from further advancement.

56. The method according to claim 52, wherein said step of advancing comprises grasping said single test strip with a grasping means.

57. The method according to claim 56, wherein said grasping is accomplished by engaging an edge of said single test strip with at least one ledge of said grasping means.

58. The method according to claim 56, wherein said grasping is accomplished by a magnet means.

59. The method according to claim 56, wherein said grasping is accomplished by an adhesive.

60. The method according to claim 56, wherein said grasping is accomplished by a pattern.

61. The method according to claim 52, wherein said step of advancing is accomplished automatically.

62. The method according to claim 52, wherein said step of advancing is accomplished manually.

63. The method according to claim 52, further comprising ~~creating~~ a substantially air and moisture tight seal between said cover and said base of said device.

64. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by threadably engaging said cap with said base.

65. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by frictionally engaging said cover with said base.

66. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by employing an O-ring gasket.

67. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by locking said cover onto said base with a lock and key mechanism.

68. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by employing a tensioning clamp.

69. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by employing a snap fit mechanism.

70. The method according to claim 63, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by mating a sealing ridge positioned on said device with a corresponding sealing groove positioned on said device.

71. The method according to claim 52, wherein said device is configured to enable a threadable engagement of said cover with said base.

72. The device according to claim 52, further comprising retaining said plurality of test strips in a recess of said base.

73. The method according to claim 52, wherein said cover and said base are two, separable pieces.

74. A method for dispensing a test strip, said method comprising:
(a) providing a plurality of test strips stored in a device, wherein said device comprises a cover and a base and said cover and said base are two, separable pieces; and
(b) engaging a single test strip from said plurality of test strips stored in said device, and
(c) advancing said single test strip away from said plurality of remaining test strips, whereby said first test strip is easily segregated and removed from said remaining test strips.

75. The method according to claim 74, wherein said device is configured to enable a threadable engagement of said cover with said base.

76. The device according to claim 74, further comprising retaining said plurality of test strips in a recess of said base.

77. The method according to claim 74, wherein said step of advancing comprises exerting a first force to a first end of said plurality of test strips, exerting a second force to an opposing, second end of said plurality of test strips and advancing said single test strip from said opposing, second end.

78. The method according to claim 74, wherein said step of advancing comprises advancing said single test strip adjacent a lip extension.

79. The method according to claim 74, further comprising catching at least one of said remaining test strips under said lip extension to prevent said remaining test strips from further advancement.

80. The method according to claim 74, wherein said step of advancing comprises grasping said single test strip with a grasping means.

81. The method according to claim 80, wherein said grasping is accomplished by engaging an edge of said single test strip with at least one ledge of said grasping means.

82. The method according to claim 80, wherein said grasping is accomplished by a magnet means.

83. The method according to claim 80, wherein said grasping is accomplished by an adhesive.

84. The method according to claim 80, wherein said grasping is accomplished by a pattern.

85. The method according to claim 74, wherein said step of advancing is accomplished automatically.

86. The method according to claim 74, wherein said step of advancing is accomplished manually.

87. The method according to claim 74, further comprising creating a substantially air and moisture tight seal between said cover and said base of said device.

88. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by threadably engaging said cap with said base.

89. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by frictionally engaging said cover with said base.

90. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by employing an O-ring gasket.

91. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by locking said cover onto said base with a lock and key mechanism.

92. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by employing a tensioning clamp.

93. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by employing a snap fit mechanism.

94. The method according to claim 87, wherein said substantially air and moisture tight seal is accomplished at least by mating a sealing ridge positioned on said device with a sealing groove positioned on said device.

95. A kit for storing and dispensing test strips, said kit comprising:
(a) at least one device selected from the group consisting of at least one device according to claim 1 and at least one device according to claim 27; and
(b) a substrate comprising instruction for using said at least one device.

96. The kit according to claim 95, further comprising at least one test strip retained within said device.